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ABSTRACT

A questionnaire survey sought to determine the characteristics of part-time university students in Great Britain, the reasons why they choose part-time study, the difficulties they encounter, the extent and incidence of non-completion, and to identify examples of "good practice" in the provision and management of part-time degree courses. Questionnaires were distributed to 4227 part-time students in higher education (2876 were returned) with a parallel survey of 55 course leaders The data indicated that part-time students are a mature, diverse group with many already members of a profession who wish to improve career prospects; most students found their courses to be as they had expected; difficulties reported included finding time to study, coping with the stress of exams and developing study skills. An examination of non-completion found that approximately 30 percent of students did not complete their courses, and that non-completion is higher earlier in a course and in the longer courses, and that course design may contribute to the incidence of non-completion. The book includes a list of 25 references, an index to the text and many charts throughout which display the data. (JB)

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